

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 662
By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the members of Martin Temple Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church for their laudable service to God and to humanity and to congratulate them on the placement of the church building on the National Register of Historic Places.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the Tennessee General Assembly pay tribute to those churches whose presence in their communities have provided respite, refuge, and direction for many generations of members, as these churches have long been an integral part of the history of our State and our nation and have played an invaluable role in the formation of a stable and just society through their ministry to their respective congregations as well as to the greater community; and

WHEREAS, it is most important to pay tribute to the historical events in the lives of these communities of faith to preserve the record of both the pain and the triumphs of believers, both living and dead, as they have worked in concert to advance God's Kingdom in their individual lives and in their communities; and

WHEREAS, throughout its 92-year history, Martin Temple Memorial has remained one such faithful community, as the church has stood proudly in Memphis, offering sanctuary to

those who seek such and serving as a link joining the oft-remembered past with the much-anticipated future; and

WHEREAS, on Sunday, May 18, 2003, the congregation of Martin Temple Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church celebrated the placement of the church building on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, in 1911, a small band of women, men, and children became the first congregation of Martin Temple when they moved from Kennedy Street to South Parkway West; and

WHEREAS, organized by Bishop Joseph C. Martin, a prominent Christian Methodist Episcopal Minister, and Reverend Samuel Adams, who served as the congregation's first pastor, the church was named in honor of Bishop Martin's invaluable leadership; and

WHEREAS, since the church's inception, the congregation has grown and prospered under the faithful servant-leadership of Reverends Samuel Adams, L.A. Story, Paul Fowlkes, J.D. Atwater, P. Gonya Hentrel, Parker Joyner, John M. Gilmore, Charles L. Johnson, and John Devine Pasley, Jr., and the congregation has swelled from a handful of dedicated followers to over six hundred active and devoted members; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Pasley, who currently shepherds the flock at Martin Temple Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, is a native of Covington who previously served as a Chaplain in the United States Air Force Reserve; and

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2000, Reverend Pasley was appointed pastor of Martin Temple by Bishop William H. Graves, Sr., the Presiding Prelate of the First Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS, as pastor, this gifted young man has led and equipped the congregation and staff in acts of worship, compassion, piety, and mercy centered on themes of "A New Day of New Beginnings" and "Moving from Vision to Victory"; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Pasley is joined in this righteous pursuit by his fellow ministers and staff members, including Reverend L.L. Barnes, Reverend Sylvanus George, Reverend Louis T. Parham, and Music Minister Charlotte B. Polk; and

WHEREAS, this exemplary congregation is also blessed to benefit from the able leadership of Bishop William Henry Graves, Sr., who was elected 42nd Bishop of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church at the 1982 General Conference; and

WHEREAS, a deeply spiritual man, Bishop Graves is both active in church and community life and devoted to his family, including his wife, Donna R. Bentley Graves, and his children, Jacqueline, Ameera, and William, II; and

WHEREAS, upon the suggestion of lifetime church member Gwendolyn Jones Bush, who received a Historic Preservation Award in 1955, the congregation recently sought formal recognition of the historic significance of their magnificent edifice on South Parkway West; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis Landmarks Commission soon recommended that the building of Martin Temple Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church be placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and on November 20, 2002, confirmation of this recognition was properly granted; and

WHEREAS, such an extraordinary designation is most fitting for this church, the congregation of which has a history worthy of celebration, as they have served people from all walks of life, knowing that all are equal in the eyes of God; and

WHEREAS, the congregation of Martin Temple Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church has stolidly stood on a foundation of rock for ninety-two years, sharing the life of Christ and loving their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Martin Temple Memorial's members are even now looking towards the future with clarity and decision as they seek to be faithful in their discipleship to Jesus Christ through their servant ministries to the least, the last, and the lost and should be recognized for their efforts; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED
THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE
CONCURRING, that we hereby join with the members and pastors of Martin Temple Memorial
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in celebrating their life together as a dynamic community
of faith committed to the advancement of God's Kingdom and commend them on the church's
placement on the National Register of Historic Places, extending to them our earnest wishes for
their continued success in every endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared
for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.